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SERVICE DATE - FEBRUARY 10, 2004

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 175X)

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT  
EXEMPTION—IN MOBILE COUNTY, AL

Decided: February 9, 2004

Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 1.03-mile line of railroad between milepost 3.67 and milepost 4.7 in Prichard, Mobile County, AL. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2004 (69 FR 1780-81). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on February 11, 2004.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on January 16, 2004, preliminarily concluding that, as currently proposed, abandonment of the line will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. SEA requested comments by February 2, 2004.

SEA states that the Alabama Historical Commission (SHPO) submitted a comment stating that no known cultural resources would be affected by the proposed abandonment, but that, if any archaeological cultural resources are discovered during abandonment activities, IC should be required to cease abandonment activities and contact the SHPO immediately. To address the concerns raised by the SHPO, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring that, if any archaeological cultural resources are discovered during abandonment activities, IC shall cease abandonment activities and contact the SHPO immediately.

The environmental condition recommended by SEA will be imposed. As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the rail line described above is subject to the condition that, if any archaeological cultural resources are discovered

during abandonment activities, IC shall cease abandonment activities and contact the SHPO immediately.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary